**LPG consumers**

†226. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of total population in the country consuming LPG;

(b) whether there is any plan to increase the consumption of LPG in environmentally sensitive States like Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir etc. in order to save forests in these States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) At present, all India population covered by LPG through the distribution network of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) is approximately 37.5%.

(b) and (c) LPG connections are available on demand in all the States. OMCs have also started the marketing of 5 k.g. cylinders to meet the requirement of low income group customers particularly in hilly areas to increase the use of LPG in such areas.

**Commercial appraisal of discoveries made in KG basin**

227. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether requisite appraisal of hydrocarbon discoveries made in the Krishna Godavari basin recently has been made to establish their commercial viability; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) As far as private companies/Joint Ventures are concerned, following 9 oil/gas discoveries have been made in the Krishna Godavari (KG) basin:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.